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Subject: kagame

To: Kevin C. Aiston  
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From: Prudence Bushnell  
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Anne --

In his two days of meetings with USG officials (NSC Advisor Lake, DOD Secretary Perry and a number of senior State Department people) Vice President Kagame stressed the following four points

-- The international community must address security in the camps and separate the former government, military and militia from the rest of the people in order to 1) enable people to return to Rwanda and 2) disempower the leaders of the genocide.

-- Financial assistance to the new government of Rwanda must begin immediately if the international community expects the government to address the injunctions the rest of the world is issuing to it (security, land tenure resolutions, prison conditions, etc).

-- The humanitarian assistance going to Rwandans outside of the country must be converted to development assistance to Rwandans inside, who can only then be held accountable for the country's destiny.

-- Reconciliation and a broad based, representational government within Rwanda is going to take time. The international community must be patient.

For our part, we stressed the following: 1) need for political dialog and reconciliation; 2) need for greater security and an environment within Rwanda that will attract refugees; 3) close collaboration with UN and UNAMIR; 4) security in the camps; 5) need for cooperation as the international tribunal emerges.

All meetings were most cordial; Kagame appeared satisfied that economic assistance to his government would be soon forthcoming.

It is imperative that we demonstrate we can uphold our end by ensuring that the arrears to the World Banks are indeed paid (in fact, not just in pledge) and that the money becomes available to the government post haste.

cc:Kevin Aiston

----- Reply -----

thanks. that was an excellent trip summary. sometimes the bottom line gets lost in all the reporting cables we send out on these things.

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